

SENATE BILL 1919

By Yarbro

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4 and Title 50, relative to Tennessee future of work commission.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, is amended by adding Sections 2 – 6 as a new chapter.

SECTION 2. There is created the Tennessee future of work commission to conduct a comprehensive study relative to the impact of automation, artificial intelligence, global trade, access to new forms of data, and the internet of things are having on this state's workforce, businesses, and economy. The main objective of the commission is to ensure sustainable jobs, fair benefits, and workplace safety standards for all workers in all industries, including, but not limited to, access to adequate and affordable health insurance, financial security in retirement, unemployment insurance, and disability insurance.

SECTION 3. The commission shall study and evaluate all aspects of the future of work in this state, including, but not limited to:

(1) The current and future trends and drivers of the transformation of industries and employment in this state and how the trends will impact workers;

(2) The identification of policies and practices to assist workers, businesses, and communities to thrive and maintain a robust economy while responding to rapid transformation of technology, workplace practices, environmental and security concerns, and global interdependence;

(3) The impact of industry transformation on worker access to affordable and robust health care, financial security in retirement, and adequate unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and other benefits;

(4) The best practices on how to maintain cohesive and beneficial partnerships between workers and employers during growth and transformation industries; and

(5) Any other factors the commission deems relevant.

SECTION 4. The commission, in conjunction with the department of labor and workforce development, shall:

(1) Develop and maintain an inventory of the current and future trends and factors that will drive transformation of industries and work in this state over the next twenty-five (25) years;

(2) Research best practices from state, national, and international sources, and develop case studies and examples for the future of work;

(3) Gather data and input from employers and workers from the major industrial sectors in every region of this state;

(4) Work with organizations that engage in workforce training to identify both best practices and any obstacles, which may exist, to adequate workforce training during future industry transformation; and

(5) Recommend any other necessary steps the commission should take to carry out its responsibilities relative to the future of work in this state.

SECTION 5.

(a) The commission consists of fourteen (14) members.

(1) Seven (7) members of the commission represent the private sector.

The governor shall appoint three (3) representatives from the private sector, the speaker of the senate shall appoint two (2) representatives from the private sector, and the speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint two (2) representatives from the private sector.

(2) Seven (7) members of the board of directors represent the public sector. The governor shall appoint three (3) representatives from the public sector, the speaker of the house of representative shall appoint two (2) representatives from the public sector, and the speaker of the senate shall appoint two (2) representatives from the public sector. One (1) representative from the public sector appointed by the governor may be selected from lists of qualified persons submitted by interested municipal and county organizations including, but not limited to, the Tennessee municipal league and the Tennessee county services association. The governor shall consult with local governing bodies to determine a qualified person to fill the position on the board.

(b) The commission shall convene its first meeting not later than September 1, 2020. The commission may meet as appropriate, but not less than four (4) times.

(c) The commission shall accept input from the public by way of public hearings, as well as solicit expert testimony from individuals identified by the commission.

SECTION 6.

(a) The commission shall, following the completion of the required meetings and hearings, provide a report of the commission's analysis and any legislative recommendations to the members of the commerce committee of the house of representatives and the members of the commerce and labor committee of the senate.

(b) The report must include recommendations on:

(1) How to ensure future workers secure access to affordable and robust health care, financial security in retirement, and adequate unemployment insurance, disability insurance, and other benefits;

(2) How to attain credentials that are portable, transferable, and cost and time efficient;

(3) How to support lifelong learning and talent development for workers at all ages;

(4) How to help workers maintain relevant skills and learn new skills for the careers and workplaces of the future;

(5) How to prepare young people to succeed in the careers and workplaces in the future;

(6) How to ensure employers and workforce training entities are up-to-date on training needs for workers in current and future industries and careers;

(7) How to enable workers, businesses, and workforce training entities to simultaneously learn and incorporate new technologies into workforce training; and

(8) Any other recommendations the commission deems necessary.

(c) The commission shall submit the commission's final report with recommendations, including recommendations for legislation no later than August 31, 2021. On August 31, 2021, this chapter is repealed.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020, the public welfare requiring it.